

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 14-17 and 19-22 are pending in the application among them only claim 1 is an independent claim. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10-12, 16, 17, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nose et al. in view of Mendelovich et al., inagaki et al. and Akemi et al. The Examiner states in the Office Action that Inagaki et al. shows that projections to limit adhesion can be cylindrical, such as those of Mendelovich et al., or spherical or conical, both of which have a single point higher than any other point thereof. The Examiner goes on to state that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the cylindrical projections of the transfer tool of the references as combined with either special or conical projections of Inagaki.

Applicants respectfully submit that Inagaki does not disclose the projections as recited in claim 1. In Inagaki, a protection member, which may be conical shape objects, is attached on the adhesive surface to prevent the adhesive layer from being directly touched by human fingers. In other words, the protection member of Inagaki is to protect the adhesive surface. For this purpose, the protection member is attached to the adhesive surface and projects therefrom. On the other hand, in the present invention, the projections are to protect the inner surface of the housing from being contacted by the adhesive surface of the adhesive film. For this purpose, the projections of the present invention projects from the inner surface of the housing towards the adhesive surface of the adhesive film.

Since the Inagaki projections are meant to project from the adhesive surface, those projections cannot replace the round bars of Mendelovich because the round bars of Mendelovich are attached to the inner surface of the housing. Inagaki is directed to protecting the adhesive surface, whereas Mendelovich (and the present invention) is directed to protecting the inner surface of the housing against the adhesive surface. These two inventions are different and cannot be combined. Claim 1 has been modified to clarify the configuration of the projections such that the projections project from the inner surface of the housing towards the adhesive surface of the adhesive film.

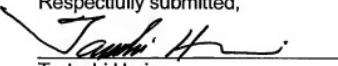
Claim 1 has been modified to include the limitation that the housing is made of polystyrene or ABS. The support for this limitation is found in paragraph 42 of the present specification. None of the cited references discloses the housing made of polystyrene or ABS.

Claim 1 has also been modified to include the limitation that the housing contains in it a non-stick material selected from a group consisting of magnesium stearate, zinc stearate, aluminum stearate and calcium stearate. The Examiner states in the Office Action that Kamata (US 5,431,697) teaches an effective dispersant to be a combination of magnesium stearate and zinc stearate. Please note that Kamata mixes the dispersant into polyethylene or polypropylene. As explained in paragraph 26 of the present application, polyethylene and polypropylene are a non-polar material which exhibits good releasability. Thus, the housing of a transfer tool made of a non-polar material such as polyethylene and polypropylene does not need to have a non-stick material mixed therein. On the other hand, claim 1 as amended above requires the housing to be made of polystyrene or ABS, which requires a non-stick material to be mixed to have releasability.

Please also note that magnesium stearate and zinc stearate are used as color dispersant in Kamata. In nowhere, does Kamata teach that magnesium stearate or zinc stearate can be used as a non-stick material. Please also note that in Kamata, magnesium stearate and zinc stearate are blended in polypropylene. Kamata is silent about blending magnesium stearate or zinc stearate in polystyrene or ABS.

For the reasons stated above, claim 1 should be patentable over the cited references. Since claim 1 should be patentable, its dependent claims should also be patentable over the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,



Tadashi Horie
Registration No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200